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with respect to Africa; for although these measures do not fall within the scope of the Society's deliberations, they may in their consequences very materially advance its general objects.

Two ships of war were sent out to the Coast in the month of November last, with instructions to their Commanders, to prevent the infraction of the law for abolishing the Slave Trade, and to take every opportunity which might occur of reconciling the African Chiefs (who, it must be remembered, have very generally been Traders in Slaves) to this measure, and of explaining to them its beneficial tendency.

A commission, consisting of three gentlemen (two of whom possess considerable local knowledge) has also been appointed and will proceed in a few months to the Coast of Africa, for the purpose of minutely investigating the state of the different British settlements, and pointing out in what manner they may be made subservient to the great object of African civilization.

Much important information may also be expected from them respecting the capabilities of Africa in general, and the condition of her inhabitants, and the best means of improving both, to the mutual advantage of that continent and of Great Britain.

His Majesty's Government has further resolved to appoint a Court of Vice-Admiralty at Sierra Leone, for the purpose of giving more complete effect to the Act for abolishing the Slave Trade. The appointment of such a judicature is particularly desirable at the present moment, as otherwise all the vessels which may be seized under the Abolition Act must be carried to the West Indies for a adjudication; a course which would be attended with a cruel protraction of the confinement on ship board of the captured Slaves. At Sierra Leone it will also be much easier than it would be in the West Indies, to dispose of these persons, agreeably to the humane provisions of the Act of Parliament. The system of free labour being already established at Sierra Leone, the introduction of any number of Negroes into that Colony, whether on the footing of free labourers or as apprentices for a limited period, could be attended with none of those inconveniences which, it is alleged, would flow from it in our West India islands, and which, as the Committee understand, are deemed to be so considerable as to make it a question whether many of the persons already liberated in the West Indies under the operation of the Abolition Act shall not be sent back to Sierra Leone. A better chance will also be thus afforded for restoring some of the captured Slaves to their former connections; and some of them, after having enjoyed the advantage of instruction in agriculture and in other useful arts at the Colony, may possibly be beneficially employed in disseminating, in other parts of Africa, the knowledge which they may have thus acquired."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN, &c. OF CARRICKFERGUS.

(Concluded from Page 334, No. V.

ON the different branches of a small river called Wood-burn, the scenery of each is truly charming, the banks being covered with a profusion of natural shrubbery; the sheet of water is not very large, and consequently does not send forth that stunning noise which renders some cascades disagreeable; it is, to use the words of a learned author, "A uniform murmur, such as composes the mind to pensive meditation." Th streams have also several lesser falls, besides the fore-mentioned;

> ....." And steals, at last,
> Along the mazes of the quiet vale."

Near the fall on the left, is a cave, hewn in a rock; it can be entered with some difficulty, and is pretty spacious. The Danish raths, or forts are very common here; I counted eight within three miles of the town, some of them very large, they are commonly called mounts, or forths, and believed by many to be the abode of fairies, &c.

I shall here mention the most memorable events of the place. About 320 years before Christ, Fergus the first, king of Scotland, founded the town*.

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* The cause of Fergus coming hither, is said to have been as follows; being af-

In 1178, Hugh de Lacy founded the castle; in 1316, it surrendered, after a long blockade, to the Scottish forces, under Edward Bruce; 1333, William de Burgo, Earl of Ulster, governor, was murdered by his own servants, who afterwards suffered here for the same; 1600, Arthur Chichester sallied forth with the garrison, and destroyed all the corn, hay, &c. in the adjacent country, which caused a dreadful famine the following year; 1639, a plan to deliver up the castle to the insurgents of Scotland was defeated by Wentworth, Earl of Stafford, and the chief agent executed; 1640, eight thousand infantry and one thousand cavalry were assembled here by him in excellent order, to oppose the Scots; 1641, Sir Phelim O'Neil resolved to possess himself of the town and castle, but being defeated on his way hither, he relinquished that plan; early in 1642, the garrison sallied out in the night, to the neighbouring district of Island-magee, and massacred upwards of thirty Roman Catholic families†; April 1642, four thousand Scottish auxiliaries, under one Robert Munroe, took possession of the town and castle; 1648, general Monk surprised and took general Munroe, the Scottish commander, prisoner, and sent him to England. The Scots having sent the greatest part of their forces, paid by the parliament in Ireland, to fight against them in England; early in 1649, it surrendered to Lord Inchiquin; General Monk was taken prisoner, but most of his officers and soldiers entered into his majesty's service. November 2d, 1649, the town and castle surrendered to Sir Charles Coote.

August 12th, 1689, Duke Schomberg arrived in the bay, with about ninety vessels, having on board near ten thousand men, but badly appointed, and disembarked the following day, at Groomsport, near Bangor. On marching to Belfast, the enemy retired to Carrickfergus, where several regiments were instantly detached with cannon; the place was then summoned in form, but not agreeing in the terms, batteries were raised; on the 22d, trenches were opened, and the siege carried on in form, till the 26th, when several breaches being made, and all things ready for an assault, the garrison surrendered, obtaining leave to go to Newry, where the Duke of Berwick, natural son of James the 2d, commanded. June 14th, 1690, king William landed here, attended by Prince George of Denmark, the Duke of Ormond, the Earls of Oxford, Scarborough and Manchester, the Hon. Mr. Boyle, and many persons of distinction, and was joined by several of the neighbouring gentlemen. October 1st, 1752, four men were killed at the castle, by the bursting of an old cannon, the gunner having wadded her with wet hay.

February 21st, 1760, Commodore Thurot arrived in this bay, with the following ships; Belleisle, 44 guns, Le Bland 32, and Terpsichore 26, and proceeded to land about one thousand men, he then attacked the town and castle, the garrison consisting of about one hundred and eighty men, of general Strode's regiment (62d, mostly recruits) commanded by colonel Jennings, made a vigorous defence from the town-wall and gardens, and afterwards retreated into the castle, the enemy then attempted to force the castle gate, but was beat back with considerable loss; the garrison having now expended all its ammunition, were obliged to surrender on honourable terms. The enemy's loss is supposed to have been near forty killed; among whom were three officers, and between forty and fifty wounded, among whom were general Clobert: the garrison had two killed, and three wounded. Thurot was for landing at Whitehouse, and surprising Belfast, but to this plan the general objected, fearing to be harrassed by

flicted with a leprosy, he dreamed that if bathed in a well at this place, he would be cured immediately; he instantly repaired hither, and his dream is said to have been fulfilled. Tradition further adds, that this was the well inside the castle, which is dry these many years: the same tradition says he founded the castle.

† This horrid act is supposed to have been committed in revenge for the massacres of Lurgan, Portadown, &c. which is in some degree confirmed by a tradition current throughout the island, which says, that the Catholics prior to this had massacred all the protestants in an adjacent district.

leaving a garrison in his rear. The re-embarkation took place on the 29th same month, at 4, P.M. in some confusion, being apprehensive of an attack on their rear*. September 1773, a most tremendous gust of wind from the S.W. passed through a part of this district, tearing out of root several large trees, and blowing down hayricks, &c. May 1st, 1778, the famous Paul Jones, in the Ranger, arrived in this bay; the Drake frigate lying here, proceeding to reconnoitre, a desperate engagement ensued; when the Captain of the Drake being killed, and his second mortally wounded, she was forced to strike to this noted adventurer. In 1798, this castle was a state prison, and continued so for some years after. 1801, by the act of union, which took place this year, the corporation only returns one burgess to serve in parliament. S.M.S.

* Thurot's squadron was all captured on the 28th of the same month, by Captain Elliot, off the Isle of Mann; after a smart action of an hour and a half, in which Commodore Thurot was killed. His watch, a single cased gold one, is at present in possession of a gentleman near Belfast.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF JOS. DOMBEY, TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF M. DELEUZE.

THE names of literary men who acquire a reputation by their writings, descend to posterity, together with their discoveries; and should their contemporaries deny them justice, or envy seek to obscure their deserts, still their works remain a durable monument, and will at last establish their proper rank in literature. The history of the lives of such, though useful to point out the steps by which they advance to knowledge, and to diffuse more widely the general results of their labours, is not necessary to their fame.

Joseph Dombey was born at Macon on the 22d of February 1742. We have not been anxious to collect anecdotes of his youth; suffice it to say, that he took the degree of doctor of physic at Montpellier; in which city he first acquired a passion for natural history, and more especially botany, which he studied under M. Gouan. In stature he was tall and well made. His constitution was strong. His character naturally full of vivacity and gaiety, and thoughtless of either fortune or fame, he devoted himself with equal ardour to study and to pleasure. An enemy to all constraint, and considering his patrimony as sufficient for his demands, he was totally negligent of his affairs. Amiable and generous, he mingled with society without calculating the expense or loss of time. The morrow with him was ever a distant period.

Seemingly occupied during winter solely with the pleasures of the town, as soon as spring reanimated vegetation, he was attracted to the country by the flowers; in search of these he travelled through the southern provinces, and along the sea coasts, and when they were no longer to be found in the plains, he ascended the mountains, and staid there till driven away by the snow. For several months no one heard speak of him, nor was it known where he could be found. As long as his money lasted, he used it to facilitate his journeys; but when it was gone he knew how to do without it, travelling on foot, and living with the frugality of a hermit, till an opportunity offered of borrowing more; when, reckoning that he should soon have wherewithal to repay, he would, without hesitation, give exhorbitant interest. Continuing thus to spend without calculation, when the time of payment came he found himself harrassed by his debts, and again had recourse to ruinous expedients for raising money. To this thoughtlessness he joined a most delicate sense of honour: his word was a sacred engagement. Unsuspicious and disinterested, his commerce with the world was easy and mild; but to this mildness was joined a firm-